CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus that generates an output signal in response to a view changing comprising:

a memory to store frames representing the view at different times;

a processor coupled to the memory that compares two frames to each other and generates the output signal in response to the two framed differing from each other by a predetermined amount; and

reset circuitry coupled to the processor that powers up an electronic device in response to the output signal generated by the processor.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor receives frames at a first frame rate when the electronic device is powered up and the processor receives frames at a second frame rate when the electronic device is not powered up.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor compares frames when the electronic device is not powered up and does not compare frames when the electronic device is powered up.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor compares frames by comparing an average brightness of consecutive frames.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor compares frames by comparing a weighted average brightness of consecutive frames.

7. A method of causing an electronic device to power up from a reduced power state comprising the steps of:

receiving a first frame corresponding to a view at a first time;

storing the first frame;

receiving a second frame corresponding to a view at a second time;

comparing the first frame and the second frame;

causing the electronic device to power up if the first frame differs from the second frame by a predetermined amount.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first frame is stored in a video camera external to the electronic device.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step comparing frames is performed by a processor in a video camera.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein frames are received at a first frame rate when the electronic device is powered up and at a second frame rate when the electronic device is not powered up.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of comparing further comprises the steps of:

determining an average brightness of the first frame;

determining an average brightness of the second frame; and

calculating a difference between the average brightness of the first frame and the average brightness of the second frame.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of comparing further comprises the steps of:

determining a weighted average brightness of the first frame;

determining a weighted average brightness of the second frame; and

calculating a difference between the weighted average brightness of the first frame and the weighted average brightness of the second frame.

13. An system for powering up an electronic device in response to a changes in view comprising:

means for receiving a first frame corresponding to a view at a first time;

means for storing the first frame;

means for receiving a second frame corresponding to a view at a second time;

means for comparing the first frame and the second frame;

means for causing the electronic device to power up if the first frame differs from the second frame by a predetermined amount.

14. An electronic system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to the bus;

a camera interface coupled to the bus; and

a video camera coupled to the camera interface, the video camera having a video processor that receives frames representing views of the camera, the video processor comparing consecutive frames and generating an output signal in response to the consecutive frames differing by a predetermined amount when the electronic system is in a reduced power state;

wherein the processor causes the electronic device to power up from the reduced power state in response to the output signal generated by the video processor